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PP RUEHPA  
DE RUEHDK #0185 0260734  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 260734Z JAN 06  
FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4031  
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS DAKAR 000185

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR AF/W, AF/RSA, DRL/PHD AND INR/AA  
PARIS FOR POL - D'ELIA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM PGOV KDEM KJUS SG

SUBJECT: SENEGAL ELECTIONS NOW SET FOR FEBRUARY 2007, BUT  
DATE FOR SECK TRIAL REMAINS UNCLEAR

REF: A. DAKAR 0181

1B. DAKAR 0133

1C. 05 DAKAR 3184

1D. 05 DAKAR 2933

11. On January 24, the prosecution dropped for lack of evidence "the threat to national security and defense" charges against former Prime Minister Idrissa Seck (Ref A) and his co-defendants: Hassan Fares, Mbaye Coulibaly, Sandrine Fares, Sandrine Madec, El Hadji Ndary Gueye and Coumba Ngouye Thiam. The remaining embezzlement charges relate to the Thies Public Works Case. The prosecution has also accused Seck and one of his attorneys of "irregular release of correspondence." The senior investigative judge may still send these charges to be heard by the courts.

12. On January 19, the Constitutional Court declared itself incompetent to rule on the validity of the law extending the term of National Assembly Deputies beyond June 2006, thereby coupling the presidential and legislative elections. With the Constitutional Court's ruling, both elections are now on track for February 2007.

Jackson